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OCI No. 1967/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #290 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The north central part of the country continues tense as small bands of terrorists remain at large.

The terrorists who ambushed police officers at the small town of Pimentel on Saturday night were apparently the survivors of the group which attacked police and army posts in nearby San Francisco de Macoris on Friday.

San Francisco de Macoris was described early last evening as having the appearance of a ghost town. Police and military cars were rushing through the streets on occasion, but private cars and pedestrians were seldom to be seen, even prior to the imposition of the curfew at 7:00 pm EDT. The local military and police chiefs informed a US Government official yesterday that they believe there is still a large number of rebels on the outskirts of the town. The police chief estimated that there may be as many as between 200 and 300. He added that four unidentified rebels had been killed yesterday morning near the town.

There were other minor disturbances on Saturday. The police fired at a group throwing rocks at the police post in a small town just outside Santiago and one person was killed. Three others were wounded at a similar incident in Santiago itself earlier in the day. At Licey, just south of Santiago, a Dominican air force patrol arrested three would-be terrorists as they were holding a meeting to discuss an attack they planned to make on Santiago early this week. The air force patrol found a quantity of Communist literature, but no arms.

State Dept. review completed

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Antonio Imbert and several of his colleagues informed Ambassador Bunker on Saturday that they were very disturbed over what appeared to be the beginning of a campaign of sabotage against government installations. They reported that an explosion in a boiler at the government-owned Ozama Sugar Mill on that day had killed two and seriously wounded two other Dominicans. They fear that this incident may signal a general campaign of sabotage.

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The Imbert government has found the recent terrorist activity cause for increasing its pressure against the United States and the Organization of

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American States for permission to send its troops into rebel territory to "clean out the nucleus of infection." The Imbert government has sent four increasingly strident notes to the special OAS committee in the last several days on this issue. Junta member Zeller has repeated the veiled threat to let it be publicly know that, although the government is fully capable of "restoring order" in downtown Santo Domingo, the OAS is preventing it from doing so and therefore must bear the responsibility for the acts of terrorism and sabotage that are taking place.

Meanwhile, former President Joaquin Balaguer flew from his place of exile in New York to Puerto Rico last night. He expects to return to the Dominican Republic today. His unexpected trip was brought about by the sudden worsening in the condition of his aged mother. Although the trip is of a purely personal nature, Balaguer is one of the country's leading political figures and his return will almost certainly cause a political stir.

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